

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1, 6, and 11.

Please amend the claims as follows.

1-3 (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

at least one processor;

a memory coupled to the at least one processor;

a plurality of logical partitions defined on the apparatus, the plurality of logical partitions comprising at least one logical partition that owns identified I/O and at least one logical partition that does not own the identified I/O; and

a partition manager residing in the memory and executed by the at least one processor and executing separately from the plurality of logical partitions, the partition manager performing the steps of:

(1) detecting when the identified I/O requires reconfiguration;

(2) suspending all of the plurality of logical partitions by inhibiting dispatch of tasks to all of the plurality of logical partitions and waiting until all pending tasks in all of the plurality of logical partitions are complete;

(3) reconfiguring the identified I/O; and

(4) resuming all of the plurality of logical partitions by enabling dispatch of tasks to all of the plurality of logical partitions.

5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:
- at least one processor;
 - a memory coupled to the at least one processor;
 - a plurality of logical partitions defined on the apparatus, the plurality of logical partitions comprising at least one logical partition that owns identified I/O and at least one logical partition that does not own the identified I/O;
 - a partition manager residing in the memory and executed by the at least one processor and executing separately from the plurality of logical partitions, the partition manager performing the steps of:
 - (1) quiescing the identified I/O;
 - (2) suspending all of the plurality of logical partitions by inhibiting dispatch of tasks to all of the plurality of logical partitions and waiting until all pending tasks in all of the plurality of logical partitions are complete;
 - (3) reconfiguring the identified I/O;
 - (4) enabling the reconfigured identified I/O; and
 - (5) resuming all of the plurality of logical partitions by enabling dispatch of tasks to all of the plurality of logical partitions.

6-8 (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for reconfiguring identified I/O in a computer system that includes a plurality of logical partitions managed by a partition manager executing separately from the plurality of logical partitions, the plurality of logical partitions comprising at least one logical partition that owns the identified I/O and at least one logical partition that does not own the identified I/O, the method comprising the steps of:

- (1) the partition manager detecting when the identified I/O requires reconfiguration;
- (2) the partition manager suspending all of the plurality of logical partitions by inhibiting dispatch of tasks to all of the plurality of logical partitions and waiting until all pending tasks in all of the plurality of logical partitions are complete;
- (3) the partition manager reconfiguring the identified I/O; and
- (4) the partition manager resuming all of the plurality of logical partitions by enabling dispatch of tasks to all of the plurality of logical partitions.

10. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for reconfiguring identified I/O in a computer system that includes a plurality of logical partitions managed by a partition manager executing separately from the plurality of logical partitions, the plurality of logical partitions comprising at least one logical partition that owns the identified I/O and at least one logical partition that does not own the identified I/O, the method comprising the steps of:

- (1) the partition manager quiescing the identified I/O;
- (2) the partition manager suspending all of the plurality of logical partitions by inhibiting dispatch of tasks to all of the plurality of logical partitions and waiting until all pending tasks in all of the plurality of logical partitions are complete;
- (3) the partition manager reconfiguring the identified I/O;
- (4) the partition manager enabling the reconfigured identified I/O; and
- (5) the partition manager resuming all of the plurality of logical partitions by enabling dispatch of tasks to all of the plurality of logical partitions.

11-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A computer readable program product comprising:

(A) a partition manager executing separately from a plurality of logical partitions, the plurality of logical partitions comprising at least one logical partition that owns identified I/O and at least one logical partition that does not own the identified I/O, the partition manager performing the steps of:

(1) detecting when the identified I/O requires reconfiguration;

(2) suspending all of the plurality of logical partitions by inhibiting dispatch of tasks to all of the plurality of logical partitions and waiting until all pending tasks in all of the plurality of logical partitions are complete;

(3) reconfiguring the identified I/O; and

(4) resuming all of the plurality of logical partitions by enabling dispatch of tasks to all of the plurality of logical partitions; and

(B) computer readable recordable media bearing the partition manager.

17-18 (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A computer readable program product comprising:

(A) a partition manager executing separately from a plurality of logical partitions, the plurality of logical partitions comprising at least one logical partition that owns identified I/O and at least one logical partition that does not own the identified I/O, the partition manager performing the steps of:

(1) quiescing the identified I/O;

(2) suspending all of the plurality of logical partitions by inhibiting dispatch of tasks to all of the plurality of logical partitions and waiting until all pending tasks in all of the plurality of logical partitions are complete;

(3) reconfiguring the identified I/O;

(4) enabling the reconfigured identified I/O; and

(5) resuming all of the plurality of logical partitions by enabling dispatch of tasks to all of the plurality of logical partitions; and

(B) computer readable recordable media bearing the partition manager.

20-21 (Cancelled)

Please add the following new claims.

22. (New) An apparatus comprising:

at least one processor;

a memory coupled to the at least one processor;

a plurality of I/O towers coupled to the apparatus via a plurality of I/O loops;

a plurality of logical partitions defined on the apparatus, the plurality of logical partitions comprising a first logical partition that owns identified I/O in a first I/O loop and a second logical partition that does not own the identified I/O in the first I/O loop;

a partition manager residing in the memory and executed by the at least one processor, the partition manager managing the plurality of logical partitions and executing separately from the plurality of logical partitions, the partition manager performing the steps of:

(1) detecting when the first I/O loop is unbalanced;

(2) quiescing I/O resources in the first loop;

(3) determining which of the plurality of logical partitions own the I/O resources in the first loop;

(4) suspending the logical partitions determined in step (3);

(5) rebalancing the first I/O loop by allocating at least one I/O resource in the first loop from the first logical partition to the second logical partition;

(6) enabling the I/O in the first loop after rebalancing in step (5); and

(7) resuming the logical partitions suspended in step (4).

23. (New) A computer-implemented method for rebalancing an I/O loop in a computer system that includes a plurality of logical partitions managed by a partition manager executing separately from the plurality of logical partitions, the method comprising the steps of:

- (1) detecting when the first I/O loop is unbalanced;
- (2) quiescing I/O resources in the first loop;
- (3) determining which of the plurality of logical partitions own the I/O resources in the first loop;
- (4) suspending the logical partitions determined in step (3);
- (5) rebalancing the first I/O loop by allocating at least one I/O resource in the first loop from the first logical partition to the second logical partition;
- (6) enabling the I/O in the first loop after rebalancing in step (5); and
- (7) resuming the logical partitions suspended in step (4).

24. (New) A computer readable program product comprising:

(A) a partition manager executing separately from a plurality of logical partitions, the partition manager performing the steps of:

- (1) detecting when at least one I/O loop is unbalanced;
- (2) suspending all of the plurality of logical partitions by inhibiting dispatch of tasks to all of the plurality of logical partitions and waiting until all pending tasks in all of the plurality of logical partitions are complete;
- (3) reconfiguring the I/O loop so the I/O loop is balanced;
- (4) resuming all of the plurality of logical partitions by enabling dispatch of tasks to all of the plurality of logical partitions; and

(B) computer readable recordable media bearing the partition manager.